

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES CREATION OF 900 JOBS IN CHARLOTTE JDIG Helps Hewitt Associates Expand in Mecklenburg County

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today announced that Hewitt Associates, the world's largest provider of human resources support and consulting services, will expand in Charlotte, creating 900 jobs and investing \$8 million in the area during the next four years. The expansion is made possible in part by a Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG).

"These 900 new jobs at Hewitt will require the knowledge, talent and skill that our North Carolina workforce is known for," said Easley. "Our No. 1 ranked business climate combined with our continuing investments in education and infrastructure will continue to allow businesses like this to locate and grow in the state."

Hewitt Associates consults with more than 2,300 companies and administers human resources, health care, payroll and retirement programs to millions of employees and retirees worldwide. The company currently employs about 22,000 workers in 35 countries.

The 900 new jobs will be primarily human resources administration and information technology positions and will pay an average salary of approximately \$43,600 a year plus benefits. This is higher than Mecklenburg County's average yearly wage of \$32,800, not including benefits.

"The combination of a strong talent pool, competitive workforce and facility options, as well as a highly supportive local and state government, and strong business climate made Charlotte the clear choice for Hewitt," said Matt Shaul, Hewitt associate. "Hewitt has had a strong presence in Charlotte for several years, and we look forward to expanding our workforce and facilities here."

Hewitt is the 33rd JDIG recipient since the program began in 2003. The 10-year agreement was approved unanimously by the state Economic Investment Committee, which oversees the JDIG program. Over the life of the grant, the N.C. Department of Commerce estimates the project will:

- Generate a cumulative gross product value of \$650 million;
- Produce a positive, cumulative net state revenue impact of \$9.4 million;

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